



# The Volunteer Newsletter

No. 1 July 2004

Outer Banks Group  
Cape Hatteras NS, Fort Raleigh NHS, Wright Brothers NMem

## NAME THE NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to the first ever Outer Banks Group volunteer newsletter. This publication is a great way for all of us to stay in touch and up to date on issues affecting the National Park Service, the Outer Banks Group, and most importantly, you our volunteers. Currently, our publication is without a name. If you have an idea for a name, please submit it to the volunteer office. The best suggestion will be chosen by an esteemed committee of volunteers and staff. Hopefully the name will reflect the history of all three parks.

The volunteer newsletter is designed to be accessed online. Whenever an issue appears we will email you the link where it can be accessed, starting with the next issue. This should be fast and convenient for you, and you'll be able to see everything in glorious color. On our end, we'll be able to save time, effort and expense. Please make sure the volunteer office has your email address on file!

We will send black-and-white printed copies to those without internet access.

Also, for future issues of this newsletter, please send us news, suggestions for future articles, and photos of volunteers in action to: Volunteer Office P.O. Box 190, Buxton, NC 27920 or [Maggie\\_Tyler@nps.gov](mailto:Maggie_Tyler@nps.gov)

## ARE YOU PROTECTED?

To be a Volunteer-in-Park (VIP), one must first have completed all of the paperwork. This is important to know because VIPs are treated as Federal employees for the purposes of compensation for work-related injuries, tort protection, and claims for damage to or loss of personal property incident to service.

To be designated as a VIP the following four items are required. For your own

protection do no work until they are on file. Check with your supervisor or the Volunteer Office to be sure you have completed them.

1. Form 10-85: *Agreement for Individual Voluntary Services* (for individuals) or Form 10-86: *Agreement for Sponsored Voluntary Services* (for groups) signed by both you and the volunteer coordinator.
2. A **Position Description**, to be entered on Form 10-85 or attached separately. It should be specific, and inclusive of all the things you may do as a VIP. It should state whether you are required to operate a government vehicle, and should list any of your own personal property or equipment that you may be required to use while volunteering for the park.

Ask your supervisor for a copy of your current Position Description, and if the work you are doing changes, make sure your description is amended or a new Position Description is on file.

3. A *Volunteer Emergency and Contact Information* sheet.

4. *Worker's Compensation Information* sheet. This is available from the volunteer office or your supervisor.

## HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE.

Are you prepared for hurricane season? Know your evacuation plans and have plenty of supplies on hand if needed. Also, please make sure you complete the **Hurricane Season Volunteer Information Sheet** and that it is on file in the volunteer office in Buxton.

## WHAT AND WHERE IS THE VOLUNTEER OFFICE?

The office is where you will find Outer Banks Group volunteer coordinator Maggie Tyler when she is not out in the and is located in the Principal Keeper's Quarters in Buxton

We have several projects in the works and we look forward to sharing them with you. Plans for the volunteer program include developing a uniform committee, volunteer handbook, and a newsletter. As a start, this summer we have started to publish our own newsletter and are planning volunteer training programs and reference guides for volunteers and supervisors. We invite input from volunteers on all these matters. If you'd like to be part of the team for program planning, contact Maggie Tyler @ 252-995-6018 or [Maggie\\_Tyler@nps.gov](mailto:Maggie_Tyler@nps.gov)

Please welcome the following RV volunteers who will be with us throughout July:

Jane and Roby Bedford, Alabama  
John and Nancy Franklin, Mississippi  
Floyd Taylor, Virginia  
Roy and Helen Skinner, Florida

## VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK PLANNED.

A *Handbook for Volunteers* is in the works. The plan is to include answers to everything you wanted to know when you began volunteering but didn't know who to ask. It will cover the big questions (what is the mission of the National Park Service and how do volunteers fit in?) and the small but crucial ones (Where can I find the park library?) We need your help. Please let us know what you think should be included. And, if you'd like to write a section that will be more than welcome!

## HELP STILL NEEDED.

We are still looking for volunteers to work with all divisions and units of the Outer Banks Group. If you know of someone who may be interested, please have them call the volunteer office at 252-995-6018. We have daily openings for local folks and late summer and fall openings for RV'ers.

### **VOLUNTEER BILL OF RIGHTS (FROM THE AMERICAN RED CROSS)**

The right to be treated as a co-worker, not just free help.

The right to suitable assignment with consideration for personal preferences, temperament, life experience, education, and work history.

The right to know as much about the organization as possible: its policies, people, and programs.

The right to proper job training.

The right to continuing education on the job as follow-up to initial training, information on new developments, and training to prepare for greater responsibility.

The right to sound guidance and direction by someone who is experienced, well-informed, patient and thoughtful, and who has the time to invest in giving guidance.

The right to a place to work: an orderly, designated place conducive to work and worthy of the job to be done.

The right to a variety of assignments, and increasing levels of responsibility and challenge.

The right to be heard, to have a part in planning, to feel free to make suggestions, and to have respect shown for honest opinions.

The right to recognition in the form of promotion and awards, through day-to-day expressions of appreciation, and by being treated as a bonafide coworker.

## Trivia Corner

In what year was the Ocracoke Lighthouse electrified? See next issue for answer.

## HE RETURNS!



John Gaskill sits on the steps of the Bodie Island Lighthouse.

John Gaskill, son of the last Bodie Island light keeper, returned for his annual story time from June 16 – July 10. He has been volunteering for the park since the 1990s and loves sharing his stories of growing up at the Bodie Island Lighthouse.

## EARLY MORNING BIRD WALKS



Bob Teagarden and Lee Yoder help with bird walks throughout the summer.

Each summer members of the Cape Hatteras Bird Club conduct early morning walks on the beach in search of birds. This year the bird walks will be held every other week starting June 6th. The group meets at 7:30am at the fish cleaning tables in Buxton.

This year we are adding a birding opportunity on Ocracoke headed up by new volunteer Elizabeth Hanrahan. They occur every week on Wednesdays at 7:30am. We provide equipment for those who don't have a bird book or binoculars at each location.

## FISH WITH A RANGER



Bob Davis shows visitors how to surf fish.

This year in partnership with the Cape Hatteras Anglers Club we are pleased to announce the presentation of Fish with a Ranger on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Ramp 43. The program is held at 8:00 am and is free. Participants must bring their own bait and must sign up at the Hatteras Island Visitor center by 6:00pm the day before the program

## REMEMBER THIS!

Be a good neighbor to the parks you live and work in. Encourage visitors to enjoy and respect the area as well. By packing out all you pack in and helping educate visitors about the various rules of the parks everyone will have a better visit. Thanks for all you do!

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS

The volunteer office is in need of someone four hours a week to help with paperwork, phone calls, and special projects. If you can help, please call 252-995-6018.

## THANK YOU

Thanks to the Mount Rainer VIP Program for providing information and template for this newsletter.

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*This is a newsletter for Volunteers-in Parks, at Cape Hatteras NS, Fort Raleigh NHS, and Wright Brothers NMem, and for those interested in the Volunteer program.*

*Supervisors please print and post this newsletter on your bulletin boards for volunteers who don't have internet access.*